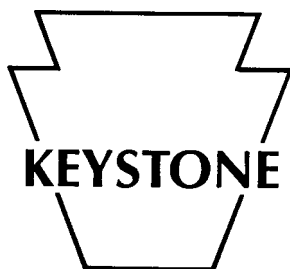




NASS



Ag Digest

Released: Early December 2002

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 02 No. 23

Highlights

Farm Labor
Cold Storage
Agricultural Prices
Poultry
Livestock Slaughter

The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

HIRED WORKERS DOWN 5 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1.19 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 6-12, 2002, down 5 percent from a year ago. There were 935 thousand workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 250 thousand workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.93 per hour during the October 2002 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.30 per hour, up 29 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$8.44 per hour compared with \$8.39 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.33 was up 24 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 40.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 41.7 hours a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin) and Southern Plains (Texas and Oklahoma) regions. Over much of the Corn Belt, summer drought conditions and untimely rains impacted crop development and fall harvest. Corn Belt producers were just getting fall harvest underway during the survey week and hired fewer workers for longer hours. Cold temperatures in the Pacific region slowed the apple and grape harvests, curtailing the need for field laborers. Rain and wet soils in the eastern Lake region and most of the Southern Plains delayed harvest of most field crops, necessitating fewer workers.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) region, Florida and the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) region. In the Appalachian II region, more workers were employed by

nurseries and greenhouses as they geared up for the holidays, and fruit harvest was in full swing in the eastern part of the region. In Florida, citrus fruit harvest was accelerating, causing the need for more workers. In the Mountain I region, harvested acres were up for most field crops, which led to an increased need for workers to complete harvest, and conditions were ideal for most of the reference week.

Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in 12 of the 18 regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania), California, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada and Utah), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota) and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi) regions. The higher wage rates in the Northeast II region were attributed to more salaried workers working fewer hours and a higher percentage of nursery workers. California's wage rate increased due to the normal seasonal shift to more full-time, higher paid employees. In the Mountain II region, winter wheat planting and fall crop harvest were nearly complete, decreasing the need for seasonal, lower paid workers. In the Northern plains, farming operations continue to hire and maintain experienced, full-time workers. Wet conditions in the Delta led to fewer hours worked, thus increasing the average hourly wage for salaried workers. There was also a higher percentage of catfish workers in Mississippi.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF OCTOBER 6-12, 2002

Item	NE II ¹	U. S.
	<i>Thousands</i>	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	41	935
Expected to be Employed . .		
150 Days or More	34	681
149 Days or Less	7	254
	<i>Hours</i>	
Hours Worked		
Hired	36.4	40.4
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	9.29	8.93
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined . .	8.51	8.33
Field	8.61	8.30
Livestock	8.17	8.44

¹ NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the value are not included in the wage rates. ³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, NOVEMBER 2002

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Nov 2001	Oct 2002	Nov 2002 ¹	Nov 2001	Oct 2002	Nov 2002 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	2.22	2.95	2.95	1.85	2.34	2.30
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.82	4.32	4.15
Oats	Bu.	1.80	2.04	2.00	1.79	1.85	1.87
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.30	2.65	2.81
Hay, Dry All	Ton	122.00	126.00	130.00	95.90	94.50	93.60
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	136.00	150.00	150.00	104.00	101.00	101.00
Dry Other	Ton	110.00	118.00	119.00	74.90	73.40	75.40
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.200	.212	.212	.235	.301	.268
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.50	8.90	8.95	5.96	5.57	6.01
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	37.50	35.00	33.60	35.80	33.60	32.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	63.00	62.80	63.20	67.80	68.50	70.90
Calves	Cwt.	113.00	108.00	102.00	96.70	91.90	90.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	33.60	30.60	26.90	35.40	31.30	27.70
Sows	Cwt.	26.40	19.20	20.70	28.20	19.00	19.50
Eggs ³	Doz.	.520	.410	.600	.486	.348	.563
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	16.80	13.60	-	14.50	12.10	11.70
Manufactured Grade ...	Cwt.	12.30	11.20	-	12.40	11.20	10.50
All	Cwt.	16.80	13.60	13.80	14.40	12.10	11.70
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	1,420.00	-	-	1,420.00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Insufficient data to establish price.

NOVEMBER FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 97, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the October index. Higher prices for soybeans, eggs, cattle, and tomatoes more than offset lower prices for hogs, milk, lettuce, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cotton, milk, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflower.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.3 percent) above November, 2001. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, turkeys and calves.

The Food Commodities Index increased 2 points (2.1 percent) above last month to 96, but is 1.0 percent below November last year.

Food Grains: The November index, at 121, is down 4.7 percent from the previous month but is up 38 percent from November 2001. The all wheat price, at \$4.23 per bushel, is down 14 cents from the October price but \$1.36 above last November.

Feed Grains & Hay: The November index is 104, down 1.0 percent from last month but 21 percent above November 2001. The corn price, at \$2.30 per bushel, is down 4 cents from October but 45 cents above last November's price. The all hay price, at \$93.60 per ton, is down 90 cents from last month and \$2.30 above November 2001.

Dairy Products: The November index, at 90, is down 3.2 percent from October and 18 percent below November 2001. The November all milk price of \$11.70 per cwt is down 40 cents from October and down \$2.70 from last year. Both fluid and manufactured grade milk prices are down from last month and the previous year.

U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS ¹

Commodity	Unit	Nov 2001	Oct 2002	Nov 2002
<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat	Bu.	9.57	9.67	9.68
Corn	Bu.	6.53	6.55	6.55
Tobacco, PA Seedleaf, Type 41	Lb.	3.09	3.14	3.14
All Milk, Sold to Plants	Cwt.	31.90	33.20	33.30
Wool	Lb.	1.64	1.59	1.59
Barley	Bu.	6.39	6.43	6.43
Oats	Bu.	3.74	3.99	3.99
Potatoes	Cwt.	13.50	13.60	13.70
Rye	Bu.	5.44	5.69	5.70
Soybeans	Bu.	14.20	14.30	14.30
Apples, For Fresh Use ²	Lb.	.484	.483	.483
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	157.00	160.00	160.00
Calves	Cwt.	206.00	212.00	212.00
Hogs	Cwt.	102.00	103.00	103.00
Lambs	Cwt.	172.00	180.00	180.00
Sheep	Cwt.	71.80	76.30	76.40
Eggs	Doz.	1.54	1.56	1.56
Turkeys, Live	Lb.	.951	.972	.973

¹ Parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for month indicated. These parity prices are the legally applicable parity prices for the following calendar month. ² Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for apples for Washington and Oregon, equivalent first delivery point returns for California, and price at point of first sale for other states.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS **OCTOBER 31, 2002**

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 5,298,000 bushels on October 31, 2002, compared to 8,164,000 bushels on October 31, 2001. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,666,000; Golden Delicious with 1,135,000; and Red Delicious with 912,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 222,436,000 pounds on October 31, 2002, compared to 342,831,000 pounds on October 31, 2001. Pear stocks in cold storage decreased from previous year's stocks of 2,510,000 pounds to 1,674,000 pounds on October 31, 2002.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2002, were greater than year earlier levels for poultry, red meat, orange juice concentrate, and vegetables. Cooler stocks of pecans were also above last year. Butter stocks were 21 percent below September 2002 but 63 percent above a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were 4 percent above September 30, 2002, and 23 percent above October 2001. Frozen pork stocks were 2 percent above last month and 14 percent above last year. Stocks of pork bellies were 10 percent above last month but 63 percent below October 2001 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies on October 31, 2002, were down 1 percent from last month but were 31 percent above last years' level. Total stocks of chicken were up 2 percent from last month and were 35 percent above last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers decreased 6 percent from last month but were 31 percent above last year.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Oct 31, 2001	Sep 30, 2002	Oct 31, 2002
	<i>1,000 Lbs.</i>		
Butter	100,791	209,110	164,640
Cheese, Total Natural	672,234	760,398	728,678
Eggs, Frozen	15,519	13,223	13,011
Poultry, Total Frozen	1,141,825	1,515,567	1,493,215
Chicken	634,658	835,420	855,386
Turkeys	497,925	672,455	628,946
Fruits, Frozen	1,199,774	1,009,538	1,161,053
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,718,180	1,837,991	1,734,699
Vegetables, Total Frozen ...	2,319,155	2,245,108	2,341,722
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,338,541	1,141,204	1,246,293
Meats, Total Frozen	849,018	996,891	1,040,084
Beef, Total Frozen	395,118	493,950	524,443
Pork, Total Frozen	430,564	480,227	491,957

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, OCTOBER 31, 2002

Variety	October 31, 2001					October 31, 2002				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	1,000 Bushels									
York	31	1	1,159	500	1,691	8	0	1,278	380	1,666
Stayman	91	16	38	1	146	37	1	56	4	98
Rome	81	65	366	458	970	100	64	309	429	902
Red Delicious ...	538	453	154	145	1,290	335	406	77	94	912
Golden Delicious	210	166	879	538	1,793	142	130	373	490	1,135
Jonathan	12	0	72	0	84	7	0	36	0	43
McIntosh	56	0	7	0	63	25	0	5	0	30
Cortland	18	1	2	0	21	14	0	11	0	25
Other ²	279	117	1,591	119	2,106	131	92	203	61	487
Total	1,316	819	4,268	1,761	8,164	799	693	2,348	1,458	5,298

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 31, 2002

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	October 31, 2001	September 30, 2002	October 31, 2002
PENNSYLVANIA	<i>1,000 Lbs.</i>		
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	234,471	54,982	132,143
Controlled Atmosphere ..	108,360	30,834	90,293
Total Apples	342,831	85,816	222,436
PEARS:			
Bartletts	302	477	34
Other Varieties	2,208	2,648	1,640
Total Pears	2,510	3,125	1,674
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	1,781,866	926,419	1,561,027
Controlled Atmosphere ..	3,782,496	1,897,480	3,668,610
Total Apples	5,564,362	2,823,899	5,229,637
PEARS:			
Bartletts	73,688	98,546	50,964
Other Varieties	443,436	348,174	429,184
Total Pears	517,124	446,720	480,148

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Oct 2001	Sep 2002	Oct 2002	Oct 2001	Sep 2002	Oct 2002
Layers	Thous.	24,137	23,709	23,727	337,085	337,151	338,036
Eggs Per 100 Layers . . .	Number	2,337	2,244	2,348	2,180	2,119	2,192
Eggs Produced	Million	564	532	557	7,347	7,145	7,410
Chick Hatch-Egg Type . .	Thous.	5,259	4,381	3,569	35,816	35,391	32,044
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	13,301	12,722	12,538	747,495	741,140	720,310
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	24,128	22,670	23,811

October egg-type chicks hatched totaled 32.0 million, down 11 percent from last year. Broiler-type hatch, at 720 million chicks, was down 4 percent from October 2001. Turkey eggs in incubators on November 1, 2001, totaled 29.9 million, down 2 percent from November 1 a year ago. A total of 23.8 million turkey poults were placed during October, down 1 percent from the number place during the same month a year ago.

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod.	Mil. Lbs.	120.0	4,382
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	98.2	3,267
	Mil. Lbs. Live	126.6	4,149
Calves	Thous. Hd.	19.1	101
	Mil. Lbs. Live	6.4	31
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	252.3	9,403
	Mil. Lbs. Live	62.9	2,483
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	6.5	300
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.7	39

Commercial red meat production in the state during October 2002 totaled 120.0 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 9 percent from October 2001. Beef production, at 126.6 million pounds live weight, was 9 percent more than October 2001. Total head slaughtered was 98,200, up 8 percent from last year. Live weight averaged 1,290 pounds, a increase of 12 pounds from last year. Veal production was 6.4 million pounds live weight, 12 percent more than a year ago. Calf slaughter of 19,100 head was up 19 percent; average live weight decreased 22 pounds to 336 pounds. Pork production was 62.9 million pounds live weight, up 12 percent from October 2001. Total head slaughtered was 252,300, up 15 percent from last year. Average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 250 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 698,000 pounds live weight, up 46 percent. The number slaughtered was 6,500, up 41 percent from October of last year. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 107 pounds.

PRST STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA, TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT NO. G-38

**PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405
)))))))))
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300